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Mr. Wayne A. McElrath serves as GAO's Director of Investigations. Specifically, he manages a small but select group of criminal investigators and investigative research analysts who perform special investigations, controls testing, and vulnerability assessments, as well as process and investigate allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse pursuant to GAO's broad investigative authority granted under Title 31 of the United States Code. Mr. McElrath has over 20 years of federal law-enforcement experience. This experience includes investigative positions with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service; United States Customs Service (forerunner of Homeland Security Investigations); United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General (OIG); and Environmental Protection Agency, OIG.

Mr. McElrath is also a graduate of the University of Missouri–St. Louis; the Harvard Senior Executive Fellows program; and the Federal Executive Institute. He is a former United States Marine and Army Reservist, and is a member of several prestigious professional law enforcement–centric organizations, such as the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Association of Inspectors General, National Association of Chiefs of Police, and National Internal Affairs Investigators Association.